

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action dated March 12, 2003, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). By this paper, it is proposed that Claims 1 and 5 be amended to more particularly point out that which Applicants regard as the invention. Further, it is proposed that Claim 4 be cancelled without prejudice. For the reasons set forth fully below, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2, and 5-14, the claims remaining in this Application, when amended as proposed, are allowable.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-14 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,595,823) in view of Chen, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,582,917). The Examiner has thorough extensive (and accurate) calculations to show that the prior art references disclose aluminum oxides and alkaline earth metal oxides or alkaline earth metal hydroxides or combinations thereof within the ranges claimed by Applicants as their invention, and that the motive to add a poly(C₁₋₆ alkyl)siloxane polymer to the composition of Chen, et al. ('823) would be obvious. Applicants have herein proposed that the claimed ranges of the aluminum oxides and alkaline earth metal oxides or alkaline earth metal hydroxides or combinations thereof be amended respectively to 50-140 and 3-9 parts by weight per 100 parts of the fluorocarbon random copolymer. These ranges are supported in the specification at page 11. Similar calculations, for the proposed claimed ranges, to those shown by the Examiner clearly demonstrate that such ranges for the aluminum oxides and alkaline earth metal oxides or alkaline earth metal hydroxides or combinations thereof to be significantly outside the comparable ranges of the prior art (see Tables below).

(A) High limit of MgO + Ca(OH)₂

	D (density)	Wt	Vol	Vol%	
Polymer	1.82	100	54.95	77.34%	
MgO	3.58	3	0.84	1.18%	= 4.94%
Ca(OH) ₂	2.24	6	2.67	3.76%	
Al ₂ O ₃	3.97	50	12.59	17.71%	

(Total 71.05)

(B) Low limit of MgO + Ca(OH)₂

	D (density)	Wt	Vol	Vol%	
Polymer	1.82	100	54.95	58.62%	
MgO	3.58	3	0.84	0.87%	= 3.73%
Ca(OH) ₂	2.24	6	2.67	2.86%	
Al ₂ O ₃	3.97	140	35.26	37.62%	

(Total 93.72)

Accordingly, Applicants' invention would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the cited references either individually or in any proper combination. Therefore, independent Claim 1, and Claims 2, and 5-14, dependent directly or indirectly thereon, when amended as proposed, should now be allowed.

Applicants are not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.99.

As now presented, this Application, when amended in the manner proposed, is believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested. The amendments to this Application were necessitated by the Examiners rejection. If, upon considering the content of this paper, the Examiner concludes that there are open issues, which remain, it is kindly requested that the amendment be entered as placing this Application in better form for Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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